GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1036
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of resolutions passed by the Sixth World Hindi Conference held in London during September, 1999 and view of the Union Government thereon;

(b) whether any efforts has been made by the Government till date in regard to the insistence of World Hindi Conference that Hindi should be made an optional language at United Nations Organization; and (

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) In the Sixth World Hindi Conference, the following resolutions were passed:
1) Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University should be developed as an International Centre for assimilatinginformation pertaining to Hindi from all over the World.
2) World Hindi Secretariat should start functioning at the earliest.
3) Hindi should be made as one of the languages of the United Nations.
4) Information Technology in Hindi should be developed and standardized.
5) Modern gadgets of Hindi should be liberally distributed.
(b&c) The question of introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of the UN has received the attention of the Government.At present, the UN has six official languages viz. English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.The introduction of an additional official language is governed by the established rules of procedure of the Organization and would require the approval of a majority of the Member States of the UN.An important consideration in getting adequate support would be the number of national delegations who use the language, and the additional financial implications for the Member States of the UN for such a move.The introduction of an additional official language would involve significant expenditure from the regular budget of UN which is solely financed by assessed contributions of its Member States. Article 17(2) of the UN Charter provides that`the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the members as apportioned by the General Assembly`. The matter is under consideration of government to see how far this is feasible especially in the light of the financial crisis facing the UN.

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